

An amazing time in the history of Amateur Radio – the dawn of the latest mode: FT8CALL

Just over a year ago, a new operating mode hit the world of amateur radio like a storm. It's called FT8 and it has turned into the fastest growing mode ever in the history of our hobby. This new mode was created by Steven Franke, K9AN, and Joe Taylor, K1JT (already famous for giving us the "JT Modes" of JT65 and JT9, etc.) as a means to operate a QSO at very low signal levels. This is great for those with lesser antennas, lower power available, and poor solar conditions such as we have today.

At the very moment I'm writing this, PSK Reporter (a reverse beacon reporting system, showing who is on the air at the moment and via which mode) is reporting that on this year-old mode, there are 794,455* QSOs that have been achieved in just the last *two hours*! And it's the middle of a weekday, not a weekend!. During that sample period, there were 2008 CW contacts made, with a trailing number on many other modes. It is far and away the most popular mode on the air today, by orders of magnitude.

I think that's pretty astounding! But FT8 has not been without criticism. While it is a digital mode like PSK, JT65 (it's more distant cousin) or even RTTY (as we now operate it), and capable of decoding as low as -24 dB below the noise floor, it can be pretty boring to operate! And as with all digital modes, it's done via a computer. But it's largely automated. Essentially, a single double-mouse click starts the entire QSO process. You pick a CQ'ing station to call, double-click on his callsign in the WSJT-X software, and the QSO starts. That's it – you mostly just sit and watch. And if you configure the software fully, the contact will even log itself for you, and keep track of when you see a new entity to work (new country, new grid, etc.) The QSO format is also very rigid, consisting of only the call signs being exchanged, a signal report in dB with respect to the noise floor (acknowledged with an "R" by each station), and the grid square of each station. That's it. Nothing more can be sent or received (not entirely true but close enough for this discussion). The QSO ends with a simple 73 by both stations, then it's on to the next one.

And to make matters worse, a number of hams around the world have come up with third-party software add-ons that *fully automate* FT8 operation! Using keystroke-storing macro managers, the entire process of an FT8 contact can be automated. Go on vacation for 30 days and come home to W.A.S. and DXCC, all done while you were away!

THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER



DAVE W7UUU

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Thank you to all who took the time to contribute to the BARK and help make it an outstanding newsletter.

Granted, the folks cheating in this way are fairly few. But the existence of numerous YouTube videos explaining how to set all this up is sure to cause the practice to expand.

But just this week, things have changed – a *lot*! Yet another new mode, a derivative of FT8, was announced on QRZ.com on Sunday August 12. Its name is FT8CALL, and it was developed by Jordan Sherer, KN4CRD. The performance is the same as FT8 (decoding as deeply as -24 dB below the nominal noise floor) but instead of a boring exchange of call, report, and grid square, FT8CALL allows for a full QSO conversation at signal levels that often cannot even be heard in your headphones!

The best part is this amazing new mode “brings the QSO back to the digital contact”, but at a decoding level that is vastly below what can be achieved via SSB or even CW/Morse. And on top of that, since it’s conversation-based, the chances of it being taken over by robot operations are very low.

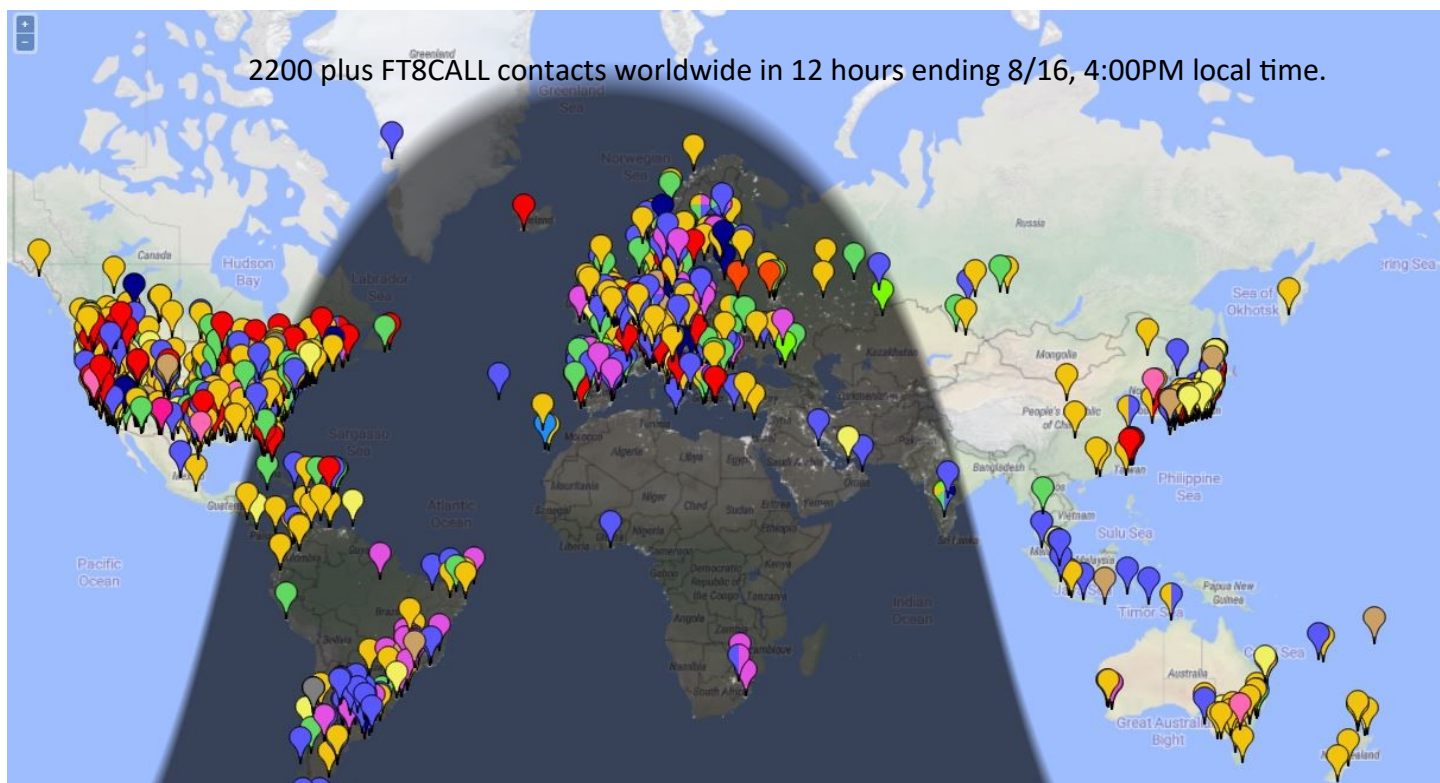
If you’d like to read more about this amazing new mode and how to get started with it, you can click on this [LINK](#). The software isn’t available for a quick and easy download just yet – you must join their Groups.IO user group to get to download links. But don’t worry – it’s merely in a beta stage right now, and a formal and easy download will soon be available. This link is for early-adopters who want to experiment with this exciting new mode, even before it goes mainstream.

And in spite of this, FT8CALL right now, and for the last 2 or 3 days, is the second most popular mode in use on Amateur Radio by a wide margin, with a whopping 3586 QSOs in just the last two hours on a weekday afternoon, vs. 2008 on CW during the same time. At a time of solar minimum, with the sun doing lots of crazy things as it has the last few years, FT8CALL clearly stands out as a great way to get on the air and work some DX without the difficulties of low propagation nor the boredom of rigid and endless FT8 contacts.

It truly is an amazing time in the history of Amateur Radio.

Have a great weekend! Dave, W7UUU

* When I went to PSKReporter this number was consistent with the total contacts in 12 hours in all modes .



RCT 2018 ANNUAL POTLUCK PICNIC

Sunday, August 26th, 2018

11:30am – 4:30pm

Fort Steilacoom Park - Shelter #1

8714 87th Ave SW, Tacoma, WA

Directly across the street from Western State Hospital (Field Day site)

Join your fellow Radio Club of Tacoma members for a day of festivities, camaraderie, great conversation, fun activities, a possible POTA activation and Paul's famous 'Vittles'

Setup, if needed, starts at 10:00 Am

The RCT, as usual, will provide Hamburgers, Hot dogs, and condiments as well as water and soft beverages
The rest is POTLUCK so bring your favorite side dish or salad (preferred), or desert

"This year, the Radio Club will host an Amateur Radio Trivia contest at the picnic, with three prizes for the teams coming in first, second, and third. So start boning up on your Amateur Radio Trivia and may the best team win!"

Absolutely no smoking, vaping, or alcoholic beverages allowed anywhere on park property, including the parking lots.

A word from the ARRL by Joe Lester K7ZG

The ARRL Board convened in July to confirm changes to the bylaws and receive reports from the CEO Search Committee. The ARRL Board formally retired the Official Observer program, to be replaced by a new Volunteer Monitor program administered by the ARRL staff. The Public Service Committee approved the ARES Strategic Plan and has published it for comments. Also noteworthy, on the motion of our Division Director Jim Pace K7CEX, the ARRL Board formed an ad-hoc committee to review rules governing timeframes and decisions of the ethics and elections committee. Jim also announced his retirement and said this would be his last meeting. The Board with a standing ovation thanked Director Pace for his years of service to the Board.



For the latest information on the Amateur Radio Parity Act, which will establish a process for approving outdoor antennas in neighborhoods governed by Homeowners Associations, see the ARRL Letter for July 26, 2018. In a nutshell, the most recent effort to move the legislation forward failed and other avenues are being pursued. Evidently Senator Bill Nelson of Florida has been an obstacle in getting the bill passed. So stay tuned and remember to subscribe to the ARRL online news letter for any updates. The ARRL has pledged to continue pressing for support to enact the Parity Act throughout the legislative process.

Our club's affiliation with the ARRL extends back to 1920. In order to retain our status as an ARRL Special Service Club, we need at least 51% ARRL membership. If you'd like to join the ARRL, that would be great. You can do so online on the website arrl.org.

Get your free copy of *A Field Guide to Simple HF Dipoles*

by Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

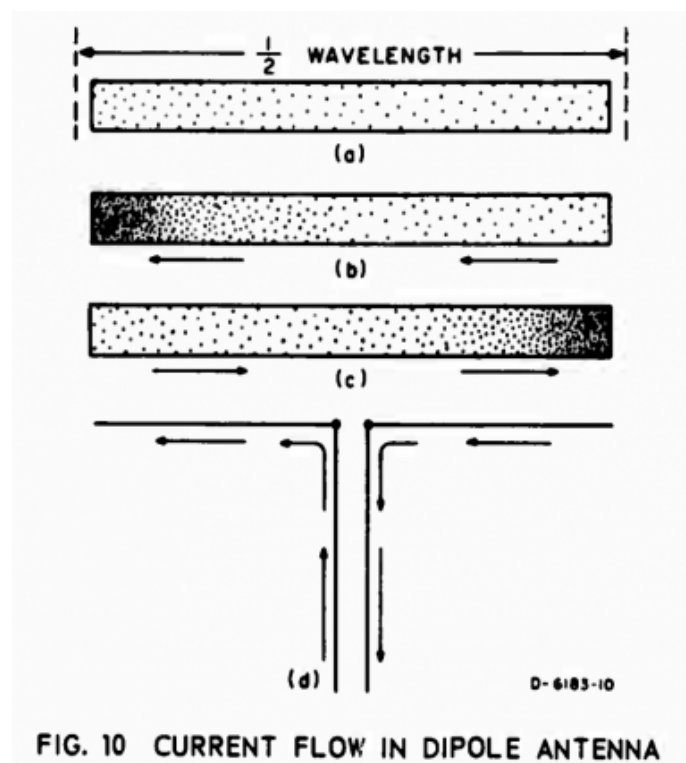
A link to *A Field Guide to Simple HF Dipoles* (<http://www.dtic.mil/dtic/tr/fulltext/u2/684938.pdf>) was posted to reddit recently, and I liked this document so much that I thought I would share it with you. It was originally written for the military, but is now available for free from the Defense Technical Information Center.

The preface to this document reads:

“Under project Agile, Stanford Research Institute has supplied several teams to assist operating personnel in improving the performance of field radio networks. In this work, it has been observed that U.S. military and civilian antenna manuals often contain misleading information regarding the operation of field antennas and tend to be overly complex. Consequently, this guide has been prepared to assist in training personnel concerned with the construction of simple HF antennas in the field.”

I must say that *A Field Guide to Simple HF Dipoles* does this very well. It not only explains how dipole antennas work, it also does a very good job of describing the basics of radio waves and propagation. And it does this without getting overly technical.

For example, below is Figure 10. It's used to describe current flow in a dipole antenna.



The *Field Guide* reads:

“Electric current in a conductor consists of the flow of small particles called electrons. Figure 10(a) represents a dipole with electrons in it. When the transmitter is turned off, the electrons distribute themselves evenly throughout the dipole, as shown. All electrons repel each other and try to get as far from each other as possible; that is how they achieve the uniform distribution shown in Figure 10(a). When the transmitter is turned on, the electrons flow back and forth from end to end as shown in Figures 10(b) and 10(c). First the electrons flow to the left and crowded at one end as

shown in Figure 10(b). Second, since the electrons repel each other, the push off to the right and get crowded together at the other end, as in Figure 10(c).”

It then uses this description to talk about voltage and current distribution along a dipole antenna:

“The difference between voltage (volts) and current (amperes) in a dipole is also illustrated by Figs. 10(b) and 10(c). You can see that the maximum flow of current is going to be in the middle of the dipole. An observer at the center of the dipole would see the electrons rush past, first one way and then the other. The center is the maximum current point. Very little current flows near the end of the dipole; in fact, at the extreme ends there is no current at all for there is no place for it to go. However, at the ends of the dipole, there is a great change of voltage; when the electrons are densely packed, this represents a negative voltages, and when there is a scarcity of electrons, it represents a positive voltage. Thus you can see that the voltage at each end swings alternately positive and negative. An end of the dipole is a maximum voltage point.”

A Field Guide to Simple HF Dipoles is packed with all kinds of goodies like this. Download it (<http://www.dtic.mil/dtic/tr/fulltext/u2/684938.pdf>) right now.

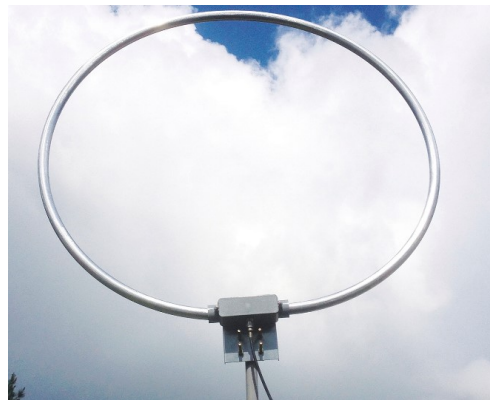
When he's not building dipoles or teaching ham radio classes, Dan blogs about amateur radio, writes exam study guides (www.kb6nu.com/study-guides), and operates CW on the HF bands. Look for him on 30m, 40m, and 80m. You can email him about your experiences with simple HF dipoles at cwgeek@kb6nu.com.

Some notes on using a Loop Antenna as a receiving antenna

Dave W7HTJ

I recently purchased an MFJ-1886 (TR version) loop antenna (\$249.00 8/9/2011) to help solve a serious QRN problem on 40 meters. It seems that one of my neighbors has a plasma TV or something that puts out a strong carrier very 4 KHz or so, especially bad on 40 meters.

I tried several remedies over a period of a month or so but nothing seemed to work. And the QRM persisted at about an S7 every 4 KHz, making the 40-meter band almost unusable.



After stewing in the juices of frustration for a while, I decided to take a chance on an MFJ-1886TR receive-only loop antenna. <http://www.mfjenterprises.com/Product.php?productid=MFJ-1886>

I bought the loop from Ham Radio Outlet in Portland, OR <https://www.hamradio.com/detail.cfm?pid=HO-015900>

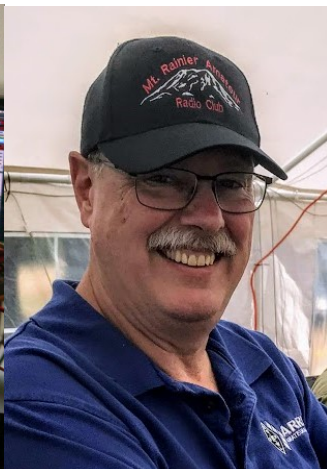
It was delivered within a couple days. I put it up on a 9-ft plastic pipe, connected it to my radio, turned the loop this way and that, and, *Voila!*, interference gone. The loop is connected to the second antenna port on my Flex. I still transmit on the R8 vertical but now receive on the loop. Simple set up that works well for my purposes.

Contest Activity— North American QSO Party CW

The first Saturday in August saw the Radio Club of Tacoma participate in the North American QSO Party CW contest. The contest is a short event running from 11:00AM Local to 11:00PM Local time. AI N7OMS hosted the activities. Thanks to all the members who participated and supported the club's effort.



Bruce WE7P works some stations on the newest club radio, the Flex 6500



AI N7OMS "Mr. Contest"



Mike W7XTZ checks out the action and lends moral support

Silent Key – Casey M. Hicks WY7V

Casey M Hicks, 71, of Tacoma, WA passed away May 6, 2018. Casey was a long time member of the Radio Club of Tacoma. While a member, Casey served as Vice President in 2013 and 2014. Casey will be missed and our thoughts and prayers go out to the family and friends.

A memorial is planned for September 22, 2018, Saturday, at 1:00PM at the Abundant Life Fellowship, 5917 S. Thompson Ave. Tacoma WA.

Ed. Note; this obituary is necessarily short as I can find little or no information regarding Casey's activities in or around the club. Casey was apparently homebound in her final years and out of touch. I am not related to Casey or the family in any way. Pjh.

RCT 2018 ANNUAL POTLUCK PICNIC

DON'T FORGET TO MAKE YOUR PLANS FOR THE CLUB PICNIC

AUGUST 26, 2018

FORT STEILICOOM STATE PARK, Shelter #1

11:30 AM to 4:30 PM

Please bring your favorite side dish or salad (preferred), or desert

See details above.

The Clock

Ubiquitous and forgotten, the station clock is an accessory that is in every ham shack or close by even on those far SOTA forays. The FCC says, among other things, that one must identify your station within every ten minutes. Easy to forget and not often enforced but required non-the-less.

The station clock can be as simple as your wrist watch or cell phone or as elaborate as a wall display world map with moving 'greyline' and digital readout. It should however be reasonably accurate especially when working the digital modes where synchronization is critical, i.e. FT-8. And don't forget logging.



High end Geochron 4K Clock and Map display that uses a 4K TV monitor to show time, Grey Line, and many other time related functions. Apx. \$400.00. The deluxe manual version sells for apx. \$3000.00 <https://www.geochron.com/>



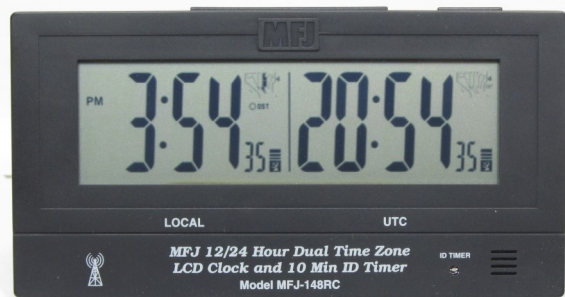
<https://www.zazzle.com/s/amateur+radio+clocks>

Apx. \$30.00, customizable

Ship's station clock showing silent listening periods for SOS signals. Prices vary widely.



Left: MFJ 148RC, \$60.00; a multi featured clock designed for the 'shack'. Right: MFJ 108B, \$21.00, basic and very popular, <http://www.mfjenterprises.com/>





Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES)

Western Washington Section
District 5, Pierce County ARES
www.PierceCountyARES.net



Greetings,

ARES articles provide information about amateur radio emergency communications, and Pierce County District 5 ARES activities and events. Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) is an ARRL organization dedicated to Amateur Radio Emergency Communication through skill and preparedness.

When You Need Amateur Radio, You Really Need It!

The Background...

Pierce County ARES manages local ARES activity, training, exercises, and skill development. Pierce County ARES supports and meets at the Pierce County Emergency Operations Center.

ARES recent activities:

JULY 28ST ARES PICNIC, Pierce County Fairgrounds:

Emergency training isn't all the ARES crew does. They took a break to enjoy some social time, good food, and some interesting mobility & deployment "GO" kits. Stan K7DKK setup a few hidden "bunnies" for the "hunt". Several took the opportunity to do some Amateur Radio Direction Finding (ARDF) skill development. Despite a sweltering week, the Graham Fairgrounds provided a relatively mild day among the evergreens. The deployment kit "Show and Tell" table was a center of interest for many, sizing up the various approaches, designs and construction skills.





Public Outreach:

ARES set up an information and promotional booth at the Pierce County Fair; August 9th through 12th. Staffed by ARES members, the booth provided demonstrations of amateur radio emergency deployment kits, various handouts, and brochures (including the Radio Club of Tacoma). A wide variety of folks dropped by to ask questions about shelters, disaster related communications, radio capabilities, what organizations are available for learning more about amateur radio, and the ARRL's Amateur Radio Emergency Service. We also setup an identical booth at the inaugural Buckley 4x4 show on July 21st.

Quarterly Exercise:

The next quarterly emergency training exercise will be conducted Saturday September 29th and will run most of the morning. This exercise will feature and promote ARES team developed objectives and tasks derived from any of the multiple emergency hazards that our area is at risk for. You can find information on the bands and frequencies for this exercise at the Pierce County ARES website, listed above and below.

ARRL Annual Simulated Exercise Test (SET) coming in October:

ARES will be participating in the ARRL, Western Washington Section, annual emergency communications exercise on October 6th.

Coming Events/Training:

(Unless otherwise indicated location is Pierce County Emergency Operations Center)

16 August 2018: 7 pm Regular Thursday membership meeting. Niles, N7SOI will provide a presentation on *Near Vertical Incident Skywave Antennas, Propagation, and Use*, which has very useful characteristics for regional HF use.

25 August 2018: Al Zuck KJ7UI will host a Saturday morning (9 – Noon) Session for those interested in setting up and operating the Fast Light Digital Modem suite of software (FLDIGI).

ARES Meetings:

Pierce County ARES Meets Monthly, at 7 pm on the Third Thursday at the Pierce County Emergency Operations Center. Meetings always have a program, normally an EmComm Training Focus.

Pierce County District 5 Website: <http://www.piercecountyares.net/web>

ARES Membership Application: <http://www.piercecountyares.net/web/application>

ARES Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/PierceCountyARES/files/>

Washington State Emergency Management: <https://www.facebook.com/WashEMD/>

ARES Information and Communications Plan frequencies:

For ARES Team, EOC frequencies, and other ARES activities you may also use the W7DK.org Website; http://www.w7dk.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=category&layout=blog&id=46&Itemid=111

Larry Watson, KD4VOM

Secretary, Pierce County ARES

Kd4vom@mailcan.com



FT8CALL de KN4CRD 2018-08-12 - v0.4.2 - Pre-Release

FT8 has taken over as *the* digital communication mode for making contacts over HF/VHF/UHF. The mode has been widely popular as the latest offering in Joe Taylor K1JT's WSJT-X application. FT8 stands on the shoulders of JT65, JT9, and WSPR modes for weak signal communication, but transmits much faster with only slightly reduced sensitivity.

While FT8 is an incredibly robust weak signal mode, it is designed to take advantage of short band openings on HF/VHF/UHF and only offers a minimal QSO framework. However, many operators are using these weak signal qualities to make successful QSOs on the HF bands where other modes fail.

The idea with FT8Call is to take the robustness of FT8 mode and layer on a messaging and network protocol for weak signal *communication* on HF, similar to FSQ and Fldigi with a keyboard-to-keyboard interface.

Read more on the design inspiration here: <https://github.com/jsherer/ft8call>

For release announcements, join the FT8Call mailing list here: <https://groups.io/g/ft8call>

FT8Call is a derivative of the WSJT-X application, restructured and redesigned for keyboard-to-keyboard message passing. It is not supported by nor endorsed by the WSJT-X development group. While the WSJT-X group maintains copyright over the original work and code, FT8Call is a derivative work licensed under and in accordance with the terms of the [GPLv3](#)

[license](#). Source code can be found in this public repository:

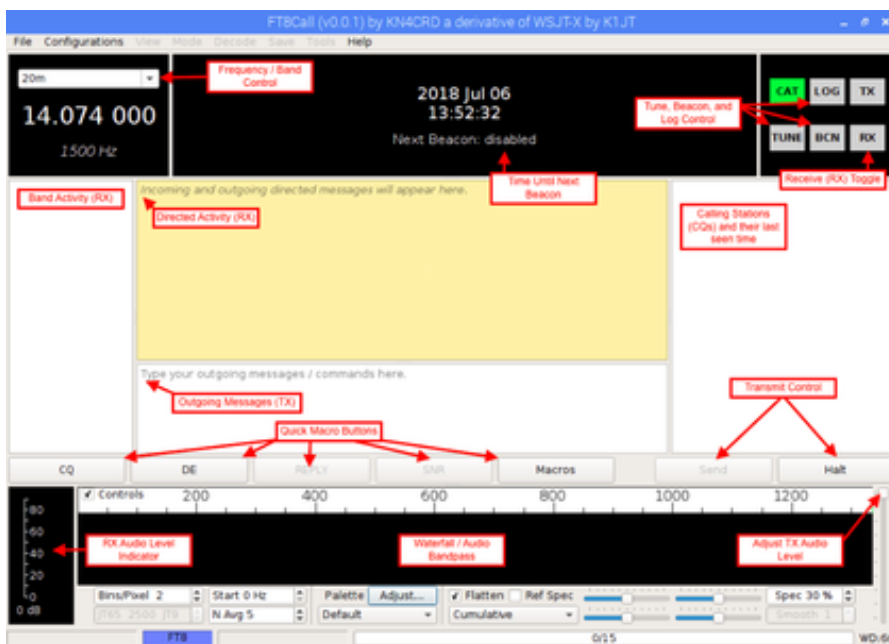
<https://bitbucket.org/widefido/wsjtx/>

- [FT8Call Release Announcements](#)
- [FT8Call Release Download Links](#)

Of course, you are always free to take a look at the source code as well!

Editor's Note: I received notice of the new mode via several websites I follow and immediately downloaded it and started playing. Amazingly there were a half dozen stations on 40, 20 and 15 meters. Today, only 5 days after release I see activity 24/7 on the bands; equal to or greater than the regular FT-8 segments. The general opinion is that during this very low sun spot cycle this mode will become very popular. My impression is that that is true. However it should be noted that while a normal FT-8 contact takes a little as one minute (4–15 second 'canned' cycles) a single FT-8CALL transmission can take several minutes because the text is broken up into short segments that fit the regular FT-8 fifteen second format. This is an early release of the software and you can expect revisions and changes but all-in-all my experience has been very positive to this weak signal 'conversational' mode.

Late note, 4:00PM 8/16/2018: [pskreporter https://pskreporter.info/pskmap.html](https://pskreporter.info/pskmap.html) shows over 2200 contacts in the last 12 hours compared to just 15 CW contacts for all bands worldwide. See picture in Presidents Comments above.



NIST FY 2019 Budget Would Eliminate WWV and WWVH

The National Institute of Standards and Technology ([NIST](#)) FY 2019 budget request includes shutting down "NIST radio stations in Colorado and Hawaii," an apparent reference to WWV and WWVH. Radio amateurs, HF listeners, and others around the world routinely make use of the time and frequency standard signals, which also include propagation information. NIST said eliminating funding currently "supporting fundamental measurement dissemination" would include putting WWV and WWVH off the air for a savings of \$6.3 million. The overall NIST FY 2019 budget request for efforts related to fundamental measurement, quantum science and measurement dissemination is \$127 million, which, the agency said, is a net decrease of \$49 million from FY 2018 levels.

"The proposed reductions will allow NIST to consolidate and focus on narrower core [fundamental] measurement programs while meeting budget levels," the agency said in its FY 2019 [budget summary](#). "NIST will focus on basic research while reducing funding for efforts applying some of its breakthroughs into new measurement applications."

The FY 2019 proposed budget cuts developed earlier this year came to light via Tom Witherspoon, K4SWL, who maintains [The SWLing Post](#) website, after a number of viewers called it to his attention. He posted an [article](#) on his blog.

"I've always considered WWV and WWVH to be the heartbeat of the shortwaves here in North America -- a constant, timely companion and brilliant gauge of HF propagation," Witherspoon wrote. "I assumed both stations would be some of the last to go silent on the shortwaves."

"I find this budget request very disappointing," Witherspoon said with respect to the proposed elimination of WWV and WWVH. "Let's hope, somehow, this does not come to fruition." He said *The SWLing Post* would be tracking and posting any new developments. Read [more](#).

RCT SUMMER SALE JULY -SEPT 2018

	<u>PRICE</u>	<u>RCT #</u>
1. Millen Grid Dip Osc.	\$150.00	3819
2. Tube Tester Meter	\$ 10.00	
3. Meter Tube Tester Jewel	\$ 10.00	
4. Heath Clock GS-1000	\$ 150.00	3706
5. Globe Scout 680	\$ 50.00	
6. Hallicrafter S-38A Receiver	\$ 30.00	3821
7. ICOM 440 mobile XCVR IC-410	\$ 50.00	3519
8. Yaesu HF XCVR FT-301S/FP-301 PS	\$ 150.00	3823
10. Yaesu Power Supply. part of #8 above		3822
11. Kenwood HF XCVR TS-450	\$300.00	3389
12. MFJ Ant Tuner MFJ-986	\$ 200.00	3825
14. W2THY Memory Keyer	\$ 20.00	3759
15. Gonset 6 MTR XCVR COMM 3	\$ 40.00	3637
16. Gonset HF SSB TX GSB-100	\$ 100.00	3866
18. Yaesu HF PWR AMP FT-2100B	\$ 400.00	3827
19. Azden 6MTR XCVR PCS-7500H	\$ 75.00	3843
20. ICOM HF XCVR IC-725	\$ 200.00	3810
21. Dentron Super tuner	\$ 75.00	3646
22. wooden speaker	\$ 10.00	
24. Kenwood Microphone MC-80	\$ 60.00	3393
25. Kenwood XTAL Filter YG-455C-1	\$ 75.00	3844
27. Battery Charger AT-5000	\$ 30.00	3778
28. Heathkit Audio Generator IG-5218	\$ 25.00	
29. Shure Microphone	\$ 30.00	3363
30. Heathkit Electronic Keyer HD-8999	\$ 50.00	3665
31. Hygain Rotor Control	\$ 75.00	3869
32. ICOM HF XCVR IC-730	\$ 200.00	3845
33. ICOM Power Supply IC-P515 P/O 32	\$ 75.00	3846
35. EICO HF XCVR 753/ with PS	\$ 100.00	3867
36. Home brew 1KW HF AMP	\$ 30.00	
37. Home brew PS 1KW AMP POWER SUPPLY	\$ 30.00	
38. ICOM UHF ALL MODE XCVR IC-471A RX OK, TX-0	\$ 150.00	3830
39. Wide band RCVR Microtel WR-200	\$ 20.00	
40. Military Signal Generator XXX-26B	\$ 30.00	
41. Suitcase with Tektronix scope camera	\$ 100.00	
42. Tekronix Oscilloscope 422	\$ 50.00	3849
43. Tekronix Oscilloscope 547	\$ 50.00	3850
44. HP VHF Signal Generator 608E	\$ 50.00	3851
45. Military Field Strength Meter ME-61/GRC	\$ 30.00	
46. Wattmeter AN/URM-120 in box	\$ 30.00	

To inspect or purchase one of these items please contact a member of the Property Management Team or one of the club's officers.

Missing line numbers—item(s) sold.

**Radio Club of Tacoma
General Meeting Minutes
July 7, 2018**

The meeting was called to order at 1327 PDT by President Dave W7UUU at **the Eagles Aerie #3 Hall**

Officers and Directors Present

President	Dave Ellison W7UUU
Secretary	Mike Finnie W7MWF
Treasurer	Steve Dightman AF7YD
Board	Red Cranefield WB7EC
Board	Phil Pia K7PIA
Board	Adam Barbera W2NCC
Board	Paul Matney W7PFU

Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Health and Welfare

Silent Keys and Illness - Scott Bogue NB7N RCT #601 joined the ranks of the Silent Key operators late Sunday night, June 10, 2018. Services were held Monday June 18 at the New Tacoma Cemetery, Chambers Creek Chapel.

Welcome and Self-Introductions

Guests present were Jan KB6DE from Eureka, CA and Angle, Niki and Cody not yet licensed
New Calls – none reported
Self-introductions were conducted. 39 individuals signed the attendance roster.

Secretary's Report (W7MWF) Usual correspondence received – utility bills, subscriptions, memberships and bill for Porta-Potties (\$495). It was noted by Ray KE7BZD that the pig took in sufficient funds to pay for the Porta-Potties.

Treasurer's Report (AF7YD) Steve AF7YD reported that all current bills have been paid and he will produce a financial report of Field Day expenses for the next board meeting.

Committee / Activity Reports

Membership (K7GRS/W7MKE); Membership reported at 271.

Training; Tech License Training October 7/8

Extra License Training by N7HT to start September 24 and run until December

VE Report (AC7WW); The next VE Session will be held July 10 so no report yet

HF Operations (K7PIA); HF Station Ops reported that all systems functioning satisfactorily

Repeater Ops (K7TMW); Some issues with the Bates 21 repeater. Repeater committee has been notified.

IT Report (WB4SPB); Randy WB4SPB reported all clubhouse IT systems functioning within normal parameters. He also advised that the mesh network previously used for Field Day logging was better than the hard-wired setup used this year.

Museum (KR7W); No report of new activities. Ongoing projects and performance is satisfactory.

Facilities Mgmt. (WE7P); It was reported that new gutters have been installed on the garage. Other maintenance and repairs are ongoing

Prop Mgmt (WB7EC); Sales reports and donation status. Upcoming surplus items for sale info. Receipts for June were \$50 from surplus sales and \$27 for raffle.

4th Weds Activity Night; An after-action Field Day discussion will be undertaken

New Business

None brought to the floor.

Unfinished Business and Announcements

State Fair upcoming. Crews needed for setup/teardown and booth duties. Contact Stephen AD7AB

Salmon Run upcoming 3rd weekend in September

Picnic August 26 at Fort Steilacoom Park

SalmonCon QRP Conference upcoming

PJ (N7PH) encouraged submission of photos and article ideas for The Bark

Program

The program for this meeting was a review and after-action report of the ARRL Field Day that was held June 22-24 at the Washington State Hospital grounds. Topics will be results, what worked well, and what could be improved.

Door Prize

A T-shirt and a flashlight were won by Mike W7MWF

Raffle Prize

A dual-band transceiver was won by Jim AG7LO

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 1455 PDT

Respectfully submitted

Mike W7MWF

RCT Secretary

Radio Club of Tacoma
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
July 11, 2018

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm.

Officers and Directors Present

Vice President Mike Mikuchonis W7XTZ

Treasurer Steve Dightman AF7YD

Board Bruce Hanson WE7P

Board Paul Matney W7PFU

Board Adam Barbera W2NCC

Board Red Cranefield WB7EC

Board Phil Pia K7PIA

Quorum: There was quorum present.

Silent Key or Illness - Scott Bogue NB7N - RCT #601 - joined the ranks of the Silent Key operators late Sunday night, June 10, 2018. Services were held Monday June 18 at the Chambers Creek Chapel of the New Tacoma Cemetery. Several club members attended.

Approval of Minutes – The minutes of the June 6, 2018 Board Meeting, as published, were approved by the Board.

Officers Reports:

Secretary's Report (W7MWF): The usual correspondence was received, including subscriptions, utility bills, bank statements, dues renewals, and member applications. An invoice for the Field Day porta-potties was received in the amount of \$405.

Treasurer's Report (AF7YD): We have money: the checking account is at \$31,500, and the savings account is at \$30,800, for total of \$63,300. We are looking pretty healthy at this point. Field Day expenses are currently being worked on.

Committee Reports:

Membership (W7MKE): Mike W7MKE was not present; he reported via email that membership is currently sitting at 271.

Training: Technician license classes are currently on a summer hiatus; the next session will be in October after the Puyallup Fair. VE testing was held last night - July 10; the next session will be held on the second Tuesday of next month - August 14. An Extra License upgrade class is planned to begin in September and run to December.

Info Tech (WB4SPB): Everything is working fine. The wired network at Field Day could have worked a bit better; the battery backup power supplies were RF-sensitive.

HF Operations (K7PIA): The HF station is currently running at full capability. The IARU HF Championships are

this weekend, which this year includes several operating teams participating in the WRTC 2018 in Germany. The Flex had random transmit problems after Field Day; the new revisions of SmartSDR seems to have resolved the problem for now.

Repeater Ops (K7TMW): Not present. Red WB7EC mentioned that the 145.21 repeater is still having problems.

Facilities Management (WE7P):

- A new gutter was installed on the garage.
- The status of the garage door replacements was discussed.
- Garage man-door status: A motion was made and approved to purchase a 3068 (36" x 80") prehung steel door within a budget of \$500; Adam W2NCC and Mike W7XTZ will buy it. Someone will check with Bob K7MXE whether the \$375 contractor bid includes the door, or if the price is just for labor.
- Alarm status and battery checks: The garage man-door alarm sensor has been bypassed for now due to magnetic switch problems. The new door will likely solve that problem.
- Alley tree trimming is in progress.
- The neighbor reports squirrel activity in the attic near the southeast corner of the clubhouse; remedies (including new screening to cover any holes) were discussed.

Property Management (WB7EC): A new donation list has been compiled and a motion for proper disposal of the listed items via club sale (subject to Committee needs) was made and approved. The July raffle made \$63, and the June raffle made \$27. A special sale of transceivers - before they go to the Chehalis hamfest - will be taking place soon.

Museum (KR7W): The museum has been on hiatus due to Field Day.

Wednesday Workshop Presentation: The topic is TBA.

General Meeting: The presentation topic for the August meeting is TBA. The presentation for July was a Field Day recap, provided by Adam W2NCC and Dave W7UUU.

Unfinished Business

- Installation and equipping of the new Safety Center in is progress.
- Recovery and disposition of 70 feet Rohn 25 tower stored at Larry KD4VOM's QTH: Adam W2NCC asked whether it is appropriate to bring to Clubhouse now; he would be happy to do it. Adam will come up with a plan for the new tower project (behind the garage), and will bring 30 ft of the tower over when it is appropriate to do so.
- Tabled until August meeting: Appointment of additional member(s) to serve on committees in instances where a committee has only one participant; tower maintenance.

New Business

- Preplanning for celebration of W7WG 100th birthday: The Club will hold an event to celebrate Worth Gurley W7WG's 100th birthday in September; perhaps on a Sunday at the Clubhouse. The Board will further discuss this via email.

Activity Reports and Discussion Topics

- Adam W2NCC – A Field Day post-mortem will be held soon. A motion to reimburse Adam \$478.07 for the

balloon's helium was made and approved.

-The State Fair in Puyallup is approaching; Stephen AD7AB is soliciting setup / teardown crews and booth hosts/hostesses.

- Paul W7PFU mentioned that an individual he was talking to on the repeater was frustrated that nobody returned his voicemail. The voicemail prompt has been updated by Dave W7UUU; it mentions that messages aren't checked very often, that the best chance to reach us via phone is on a Saturday, and that the best way to get a prompt response is to email the Club (info@w7dk.org).

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:07 pm.

Submitted:

Phillip E. Pia, K7PIA – RCT Director at-large, acting Secretary.

2011 SOTA activation of Dege Peak by Radio Club of Tacoma members



SOTA activation of Dege Peak (pronounced Day Gay), Mt. Rainier National Park in 2011 By Al N7OMS shown here, Rich KR7W, and Chuck AC7QN. On the left, about 3 miles from the peak showing the beauty of the area; typical of a lot of SOTA peak areas. On the right Al is making contacts from the peak on 2 meters. Click on the link for a short video of the adventure. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=11C3xVC40Rw>

Just one of the many diverse aspects of Amateur Radio that RCT members participate in and enjoy.

THE CLUB LINEUP

CLUB OFFICERS

President: Dave Ellison, W7UUU - w7uuu@w7dk.org

Vice Pres: Mike Mikuchonis, W7XTZ - w7xtz@w7dk.org

Secretary: Mike Finnie, W7MWF - w7mwf@w7dk.org

Treasurer: Steve Dightman, AF7YD - af7yd@w7dk.org

5 BOARD MEMBERS

Bruce Hanson, WE7P - we7p@w7dk.org

Paul Matney, W7PFU - w7pfu@w7dk.org

Adam Barbera, W2NCC - w2ncc@w7dk.org

Red Cranefield, WB7EC - wb7ec@w7dk.org

Phil Pia, K7PIA - k7pia@w7dk.org

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MEMBERSHIP INFO: FULL (licensed) and ASSOCIATE (non licensed) is \$35 per calendar year. \$30 for Licensed Seniors (65 and over). Licensed family members at same address pay \$20 each for the first two and are free for the third, fourth, and so on. Full-time students, licensed or non licensed, up to age 25 are \$20 per year. Note: fees are applicable for the calendar year: Jan to Dec. Lifetime membership is 20 times the yearly fee you are eligible for.. Lifetime memberships are calculated based on the FULL and ASSOCIATE rates.

www.w7dk.org - For the latest and most current information on events and activities, visit the Radio Club of Tacoma Website.

RADIO CLUB REPEATERS

Central Tacoma: 147.280 + PL=103.5

Crawford Mountain 147.380 + PL=103.5 (E of Olympia @ 1500 ft. ASL)

Central Tacoma: 440.625 + PL=103.5

North Tacoma: 145.21 – PL=141.3